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# PHOTO RELEASE

## Home for Abalone



USAID-GEM

**HOME FOR ABALONE.** Engineer Hector Palma, Aquaculture Specialist of USAID'S Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program (left) and Pen Patarasa, Technical Assistant of GEM's Targeted Crop Expansion Program (TCEP) show the participants a prototype of a homemade hanging abalone sea cage at a Mariculture training program in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. The training, conducted by GEM, was designed to promote entrepreneurship among the

town's residents and to encourage fisherfolks to shift into mariculture from unsustainable fishing practices. GEM is a five-year initiative that began in September 2002. It undertakes a wide range of projects to increase economic productivity, and to contribute to attaining lasting peace in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. GEM's implementation is being overseen by the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo). **(GEM Program)**